



# OPPORTUNITY WEEK

## Month 2: CHILD

## Father, I am Your child!

“Father, help us reach **EVERY LAST ONE** on our campus with Your HOPE!”

### WELCOME

**LEADER TIP:** Arriving early to pray over the room, playing worship live or on a bluetooth speaker, and greeting attendees as they enter, creates an environment that welcomes God's presence and people well.

Welcome: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**SAY:** Welcome to First Priority! It's great to see you here today! This year, we are learning about Who God is and who He says we are! Each week of First Priority will feature a piece of our HOPE strategy. The O in HOPE stands for **OPPORTUNITY**. This week is **OPPORTUNITY** week, where we look at taking the **opportunities** to overcome anything in the way of us knowing Who God is and who He says we are! Today, our **OPPORTUNITY** GOAL is for us to identify and overcome any obstacle in the way of us believing that God is our Heavenly **Father** and we are His **children**!

Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**LEADER TIP:** Feel free to add your own words to this prayer.

**SAY:** Let's pray together. “God, You are our Heavenly **Father**! We invite Your presence to be with us in this room right now as we worship You. We know that we are never alone because we have You! We love You! In Jesus' Name, amen.” (Psalm 22:3; Hebrews 13:5)

### WORSHIP (OPTIONAL)

Worship Transition Talk: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**SAY:** The word “praise” means “to applaud, to show gratitude, to honor.” It's important for us to take every **opportunity** to praise our Heavenly **Father**. Our praise shows that we honor Him and are grateful for His presence in our lives! Let's praise God together!

Worship: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

Worship song(s) length: \_\_\_\_\_

**LEADER TIP:** You have the option for worship led live by students or by a lyric video. Test everything and prepare WELL BEFORE club time, ensuring all technology functions properly. Students have vastly different worship experiences and backgrounds. For everyone to confidently sing and enter God's presence in worship, it is best to have lyrics prepared in a slides presentation, on paper, or via a QR code.  
Song Suggestion:

TOPIC:	SONG:	ARTIST:
Our Heavenly <b>Father</b> Child of God	The <b>Father's</b> House No Longer Slaves	Cory Asbury Bethel

Message Transition Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**LEADER TIP:** Since worship can be such a powerful time of inviting God's presence into the room, we want to direct this moment with care and respect. To carefully transition into the message, have a student leader pray their own prayer or pray the prayer below.

**SAY:** “**Father**, as we hear a message from Your Word, help all of us to know and believe that we are Your **children**. Thank You for wanting us to be a part of Your family. In Jesus' Name, amen.” (Ephesians 2:19)

### MESSAGE

Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**SAY:** Today's verse is Romans 8:14 which says, “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the **children** of God.”

Message: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**LEADER TIP:** One or more leaders may present the message. If you'd like to write the message in your own words, use the MESSAGE TIPS portion of the CLUB PLAN TEMPLATE provided at the end of this week's lesson.

**SAY:** To understand today's verse, we first need to know what it means to be a **child** of God. John chapter 1 verse 12 says, “But to all who believed in Him (Jesus) and accepted Him, He gave the right to become **children** of God.” To be a **child** of God, we have to believe and accept Jesus as our Lord. Romans chapter 10 verse 9 tells us, “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” When we make the decision to choose Jesus as the “Lord” of our lives, we surrender everything to Him. Our thoughts, plans, dreams, and desires become His. If Jesus is our Lord, then His Holy Spirit lives in us. (Romans 8:9-11) When His Spirit lives in us, we can be led by Him as God's **son** or **daughter**!

What does it mean to be led by the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit? When we are led by the Holy Spirit, our lives will produce the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit are characteristics that show the Holy Spirit is the leader of our lives. Galatians 5:22-23 says, “But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” If we are **children** of God and our lives are led by the Holy Spirit, we will show these characteristics with our words, actions, and how we treat others. How can we show others that we are God's **children**? Our life, words, and actions will be the proof that we belong to God's family. (John 13:34-35)

On **opportunity** week, we focus on identifying and overcoming any obstacles that can get in the way of us believing Who God is and who He says we are! We are going to look at a few of the obstacles that get in the way of us believing that we can be God's **children**. Some lies that our enemy, the devil, wants us to believe is that God doesn't want us and that we aren't good enough to be His **children**. (John 10:10) We can identify and know that this is a lie because Ephesians chapter 1 verse 5 tells us, “God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.” This verse tells us that God wanted us! We have a place in His family. Because of what Jesus did for us, we don't have to try to be good enough. He makes us good enough! (Ephesians 2:8-9) This is the truth according to God's Word! (John 19; 1 John 1:7-9)

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### MESSAGE (continued)

Another lie the enemy wants us to believe is that we are not worthy of being loved. Have you ever felt like no one loves you or notices you? Maybe it's hard to understand that God is a good **Father** because you've never known what it was like to have a good **father**. First John 3 verse 1 says, "See how very much our **Father** loves us, for He calls us His **children**, and that is what we are!" We can believe this truth from God's Word that says we are loved! God loved us so much that He calls us His **children**! He is our Heavenly **Father**, Who will never leave us! (Hebrews 13:5)

Now that we have identified these lies as obstacles, let's learn about how we can overcome them. Last month on Evangelize week, we talked about Revelation chapter 12 verse 11, which tells us that we overcome by the word of our testimony. Proverbs chapter 18 verse 21 tells us that our mouths have the power to speak life. So how can we overcome the obstacles that come against us? We can overcome any obstacle that gets in the way of us believing that we are God's **children** by speaking, knowing, and believing God's Word! His Word is our weapon to defeat the enemy! (Ephesians 6:13-17)

If you have questions about what it means to be a **child** of God, or you want to make the decision to ask Jesus to be your Lord, our Campus Coach or one of our student leaders would love to talk with you before you leave! We can be encouraged today that we are never alone in God's family!

### LET'S TALK ABOUT IT (OPTIONAL)

**LEADER TIP:** If you have time available, discuss these questions in a small group or large group setting. For small groups, select a leader for each group.

Group Questions: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**IMPORTANT:** If discussion or a student's personal question(s) drift toward topics too lengthy or difficult for the time allotted, please encourage them to ask the adult leaders in the room after the meeting or refer them to their parents or pastors after school.

(Example: "That's a great question. Let's ask \_\_\_\_\_ after the club today or \_\_\_\_\_ after school.")

#### GROUP LEADER(S) SAY:

1. What are some of the obstacles that can get in the way of us believing that we are God's **children**?
2. What are some **opportunities** and benefits that we can have by being a part of God's family?
3. How can being part of a local church show us what God's family looks like?

### LOCAL CHURCH INVITE

Identity Statement: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**LEADER TIP:** Take this **opportunity** to share with the club about your church/youth group, what day/time you meet, and any upcoming events that may be taking place.

**SAY:** It is important for followers of Jesus to have a community of people where they can be encouraged and grow in their faith! If you don't have a church you attend regularly, our student leadership team would love to help you get connected with a church.

Promo/Announcements: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**SAY:** We can't wait to see you next week! Pray about who the Lord wants you to invite! Don't forget to follow our club on social media! If you are looking for a church to visit, come ask a student or adult leader to help get you connected.

**LEADER TIP:** Your social media team members may want to create a graphic to post with this month's verse or the Identity Statement. Encourage your classmates to follow the club's social media account, if you have one, and share graphics for upcoming club meetings and events.

Sample wording for the graphic: "I am a **child** of God! - Romans 8:14"  
**IMPORTANT:** If your club doesn't have a social media account, check with your Faculty Sponsor for approval.

Closing Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

### LEADERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Dismiss attendees to class based upon Faculty Sponsor's direction.
2. Clean your club meeting space, removing any trash.
3. Reset all items in your club meeting space to their original positions.

### CLUB PLAN TEMPLATE

**LEADER TIP:** Use this template to write or type out your own plan on a separate piece of paper for **OPPORTUNITY WEEK** based upon Romans 8:14 and this week's **OPPORTUNITY GOAL**.

#### THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITY GOAL:

For us to identify and overcome any obstacle in the way of us believing that God is our Heavenly **Father** and we are His **children**!

**LEADER TIP:** Make sure you know the length of your club time and how long you desire each section of your plan to last.

Time:

Welcome:

Prayer:

Worship:

Identity Verse: Romans 8:14

Message:

#### MESSAGE TIPS:

1. Look at this week's existing scripted message for ideas and inspiration.
2. Use additional scripture references to support and to bring further understanding to this week's Identity verse.
3. No matter how long you have been serving the Lord, IT'S ALWAYS BEST to share your message ahead of time with your parent, pastor, First Priority Campus Coach or a First Priority staff member BEFORE sharing it with the full club. Ask them to look over it with you and give their prayerful feedback.

#### "Let's Talk About It" Questions:

**LEADER TIP:** Use scripted questions provided or create your own.

**IMPORTANT:** If discussion or a student's personal question(s) drift toward topics too lengthy or difficult for the time allotted, please encourage them to ask the adult leaders in the room after the meeting or refer them to their parents or pastors after school.

(Example: "That's a great question. Let's ask \_\_\_\_\_ after the club today or \_\_\_\_\_ after school.")

Promo/Announcements:

Closing Prayer: